FARM NEWS

By J. A. Smith, County Agent

Gasoline Refund Tax Ruling

Farmers will be able to obtain a refund on gas used on the farm for farm purposes at the present federal tax rate of two cents per gallon. To get this refund, the farmers must file a claim after June 30th, and before October 1st. Forms for filing are available at the county agent's office, post office, Farmers National Bank and the Bank of Appomattox.

In general, the new law provides that gasoline shall be treated as used for farming purposes if it is used as follows:

1. By the farmer or any other person in connection with cultivating the soil, or raising or harvesting any agricultural or horticultural commodity, including the raising of livestock, poultry, etc., on the farmer's own farm.

2. By the farmer in the operation, management, conservation, improvement, or maintenance of his farm or its tools or equipment.

3. By the farmer in handling, drying, packing, grading or storing any agricultural or horticultural commodity in its unmanufactured state, but only if the farmer produced more than one-half of the commodity which he so treated during the period for which the claim is filed.

4. By the farmer in connection with the planting, cultivating, caring for, or cutting of trees, or the preparation (other than sawing into lumber, chipping, or other milling) of trees for market, but only if the planting, etc., is incidental to his farming operations.

No refunds of tax are allowed on gasoline used off the farm, such as gasoline used on public roads or highways in transporting family members or workmen, equipment, livestock, crops, feed, etc. Also, no refunds are allowed for tax on gasoline used in processing packaging, freezing or canning operations.

Farmers are also given special relief from the Federal excise tax on diesel fuel and special motor fuels used on a farm for farming purposes.

Farmers who expect to file claims should keep sufficient records to enable the Internal Revenue Service to verify the accuracy of the amount claimed.

Orchard Grass Seed

Results of tests run this year on several varieties of orchard grass seed are now available.

Tests conducted at the Orange Station show that Commercial Danish seed yielded 2.68 tons per acre over a 3 year period; Virginia Commercial yielded 2.96 tons per acre and Potomac (a new strain released by the USDA) yielded over 3 tons per acre.

At VPI, Commercial Danish yielded 1.456; Virginia Commercial 1.634; and Potomac, 1.581.

The Warsaw results are given in pounds per acre for a two year period: Commercial Danish, 2,332; Virginia Commercial, 3,489; and Potomac, 3,135.

From these tests farmers will be better off sticking to Virginia adapted seed rather than growing imported seed or seed grown outside the state. Virginia now produces about 40% of all orchard grass seed grown in the United States.

Conquering Cutworms

Have you ever strolled into the garden on a fine morning to find your newly transplanted cabbage, broccoli, tomatoes, or flowers nipped off at the ground If so, you may have been the victim of a nocturnally operating villian called a cutworm.

Until the advent of chlordane or preparations containing chlordane, the only protection was to laboriously place paper collars or bands around the stems of the plants or to put out dangerous poison bait. Now all you need to do is mix a little chlordane with each gallon of transplanting water or starter solution. The manufacturer's package will tell you how much to use per gallon.

Set the plant, cover the roots with soil, then pour a cupful of the solution around the plant so it will permeate the entire soil depth from surface to the roots. When the cutworm crawls up through the soil, and comes in contact with the chlordane-treated area, his hours are numbered.

Another method of cutworm control is to sprinkle a chlordane solution—or use a chlordane dust—on the soil surface around the newly set-out plants. It can be worked lightly into the top half-inch or so of the soil.

These procedures are just plain good insurance with a low premium rate.

Another good thing about chlordane—it also controls the troublesome maggot that eats roots of young cabbage, broccoli, and related plants.

Preliminary Plans for Institute

Preliminary plans for the Institute of Rural Affairs at VPI, July 17-19, have been announced by W. H. Daughtrey, associate director of the VPI Agricultural Extension Service.

The two principal evening speakers have been named. Dr. D. M. Keezer, vice president and director, department of economics, McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, will discuss "A Look Ahead at Our American Economy," at the opening general session, Tuesday evening, July 17.

Virginia's Governor Thomas B. Stanley will address the Institute on Wednesday evening, July 18.

As in the past morning programs will feature three sections and those attending the Institute may attend the section of their choice. One of the morning sections will be of particular interest to youth. On Wednesday morning, Dr. Keezer will continue his discussion of the preceding evening.

Scheduled for Thursday morning are discussions by: Hugh Woodle, agronomist, Clemson College; Dr. C. F. Huffman, professor of dairying, Michigan State University; and Dr. T. M. Hahn, head, VPI department of physics.

The Institute annually attracts farmers, homemakers, and other interested people from throughout Virginia. Daughtrey said other details of the program will be announced later.

Garden Question Box

By A. S. Beecher,
Associate Horticulturist, VPI

Q.- We are planning to build a terrace. What minimum size do you suggest? How can we assure privacy? What small trees will provide shade for the southwest corner?

A.- A terrace should be at least 12 feet square—15 feet is preferable. Use fences, screens or plant material for privacy. Suggested as small trees for the corner include flowering dogwood, shadblow, redbud, golden rain tree, saucer magnolia, flowering crab apple, and sourwood.

Q. How high school the riser be for a garden step, and how wide should we make the tread?

A. Make the riser 4 to 6 inches high and the treads 14 to 16 inches wide. A general rule is "twice the riser plus the tread should equal 26 inches."

Q. Is it too early to prune forsythia?

A. Now is a good time to prune any of the early blooming shrubs because they have finished blooming for this year.

Q.. My yard is very shady. What shrubs will grow in the shade?

A. Write to the VPI Horticultural Department, Blacksburg, and ask for mimeographed sheet on "Landscaping in the Shade."

Q. The yard in the back of my house is small. How can I develop the area so it will look as large as possible?

A. Keep the center area open and free of flower beds and shrubs. A fence around the yard to enclose the area will take less space than a shrub border. Plan the landscape development on a diagonal, as this will give a longer axis.

DEATH STALKS VACATION

Tucson, Ariz.. The Thomas A. Sharum family, of Royal Oak, Mich. saved their pennies for two years in order to visit friends in Tucson. Only a few blocks from their destination, their car ran out of gas. While Mrs. Sharum and their four children waited, Sharum took a can from the car, began walking across the street toward a filling station and was struck by a westbound car and killed.

Israel is reported to have applied for a $75,000,000 loan from the United States Export - Import Bank. It would be spent for water development.

Davir Rockefeller urges the South to seek outside capital.

DOG SAVES BABY

Fiumicina, Italy. ... found a 10-month-old ... who had been buried ... in a foot-deep hole ... is credited with saving ... life. Two hunters follow... to the spot where ... of the baby's head ... exposed after the dog ... away the sand. Tooth... ment restored the child ... The mother was quoted ... she did it because "I ... to give him."

A COINCIDENCE

Fall River, Mass.- ... with a two-car accident ... police records noted that ... of one of the cars was ... Souza, 187 Smith Street ... ed party in the accident ... uel L. Souza, 187 Smith ... a witness questioned was ... Souza, 187 Smith Street ... three different persons ... erations of a family.

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Many years of preparation have gone ahead of the Commencement ceremonies to be observed within a few days. All over America, in high schools and colleges, fine boys and girls will step forward and receive a coveted diploma, which signifies that a milestone has been reached in their life. This is no sudden thing, achieved overnight. Back of it is more than the years of study the boys and girls have contributed to this event. Back of it is the sacrifice and planning of their parents and of the community to provide OPPORTUNITY.

We think that OPPORTUNITY is one of the very grandest things in our great nation. There were times when opportunity was limited or did not exist at all. But slowly and at great sacrifice, the American people have provided their youth with the challenge of the open road, the vision of broad horizons, and the opportunity to carve careers and build jobs . . . homes . . . character.

Appomattox is no exception. We have a fine Class of 1956, ready to step up and receive high school diplomas. Others of our youth are further along and are graduating at college commencements. As proud as we are of these young people, let us also be proud of the Opportunity our Community has provided. The parents are entitled to congratulations, too!

Appomattox offers Opportunity to its young people. We hope that most of these graduates will decide to stay in our community and help us build it stronger. There are fine job opportunities here, provided by business and industry, with excellent careers available. Our county offers opportunities to smart boys who love the soil. The future is bright in Appomattox and our dreams of an ever expanding sound economy are based upon the belief that our younger generation will meet the challenge of the opportunities offered. Over and over, we have stressed in this series, the theme of building the home community. The Class of 1956 is invited to join now, in the years ahead in our united effort to keep Appomattox GROWING.

Saturday, May 26, is POPPY DAY in Appomattox. Sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, the event is a tribute to those who have served their nation in time of emergency. To wear a Pappy Saturday will be an honor to the dead through serving the living.

Memorial Day will be observed in Appomattox on Sunday, May 27, at 2:30 P. M., with exercises first at the Confederate Cemetery and thence to the McLean House.

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